

SHEPSHED URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1908.

BY

THOMAS BELL, M.D., C.M.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRINTED BY HENRY FREEMAN, MARKET PLACE, SHEPSHED.

SHEPSHED URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1908.

The Population. The population at the last census (1901) was 5293, with an average number of 4·4 persons per house. My estimate of the population at the middle of the year is 5500, the same as last year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births. The total number of births registered during the year was 140 (76 males and 64 females). This is equivalent to a birth rate of 25·4 per 1000 inhabitants, as compared with 26·3 for 1907. The average birth rate for the last decade was 28·8, and that for the county in 1907 was 25·6. In only one case out of the 140 was the birth illegitimate.

Deaths. The total number of deaths registered as occurring in your District was 62 (28 males and 34 females). This gives a death rate of 11·2 per 1000 inhabitants, as compared with 13·1 for last year. The average death rate for the ten preceding years was 14. Four deaths of residents in public institutions beyond the District were registered, all occurring in the Loughborough Workhouse. This increases the nett deaths belonging to the District to 66, and the nett death rate to 12, as compared to 13·6 for the year 1907. I may here state that the deaths of the two victims of the recent motor accident at Blackbrook, have been credited to your District, because, although being non-residents, their deaths actually occurred in the District. If these two deaths be deducted from the number of nett deaths, the nett death rate would then be 11·6. The total death rate for the county for 1907 was 14·1 per 1000, and the nett death rate 13·1 per 1000.

I have looked up all the Annual Reports of your Medical Officers of Health since the formation of the Local Board (1887), and find that the death rate for this year (1908) is the lowest recorded. The monthly death rate was highest in February (10) and December (8), and the lowest in October (1), August (2), and September (2). Of the 62 deaths, 19 were in children under one year of age, and 18 in persons over 65 years of age.

- Inquests.** Eight inquests were held during the year, including two deaths from natural causes, five accidental deaths, and one suicide.
- Natural Increase.** The number of births exceed the number of the deaths by 78, as compared with 70 in 1907, and 71 in 1906.
- Infant Mortality.** Nineteen deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality of 135·7 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 103 for 1907, and 188·6 for 1906. The mean infant mortality for the past ten years (1898—1907) was 141. The infant mortality, though much higher than that for last year, is well within the average for the past decade. Nevertheless, it is too high when we know that for the county last year it was only 103. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

- Notifications** Only ten cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, including diphtheria five, erysipelas four, and enteric fever one. The total number of notifications received since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, is 299, being an average of 37·3 cases per year.
- Zymotic Mortality.** No deaths were due to the notifiable infectious diseases, but three were due to whooping cough, and two to diarrhoea, making a total of five deaths due to zymotic diseases. This is equivalent to a zymotic mortality of 0·9, as compared with 0·7 for 1907, and 0·9 for 1906.
- Diphtheria.** There were five cases notified, and excepting that there were two in one house, they occurred in different parts of the District, and seemed to have no connection with one another. In two cases, certainly, the insanitary condition of the premises was the cause. The anti-toxic serum was supplied by your Council in all cases, and was effective.
- Erysipelas.** Four cases were notified, all of a mild type.
- Enteric Fever.** Only one case occurred. It was of a moderately severe type, and recovered.
- Whooping Cough.** This disease was very prevalent during the months of January and February, and three deaths were due to it.
- Influenza.** Influenza was prevalent during March and April.
- Diarrhoea.** Many cases were seen in children at the beginning of August, but only one child and one adult died of it.
- Disinfectants.** These are freely supplied to houses in which infectious diseases occur, and houses are subsequently disinfected by sulphur candles. The schools were disinfected as usual.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Phthisis. Only two persons died of this disease, producing a phthisis per centage rate of all deaths of 3·2, and the phthisis death rate per 1000 living 0·3. The phthisis death rate for the whole county for 1907 was 0·86 per 1000 living, and for the Urban Districts 0·91. This year, at any rate, our figures compare most favourably with those for the county for last year.

The following Table may be of interest :—

Year.	No. of Deaths from Phthisis.	Phthisis per centage rate of all Deaths.	Phthisis Death rate per 1000 living.
1900	7	7·3	1·4
1901	9	12·3	1·7
1902	6	9·3	1·1
1903	10	14·2	1·9
1904	7	9·4	1·3
1905	8	8·7	1·4
1906	7	10·3	1·2
1907	10	13·8	1·8
1908	2	3·2	·3

Other
Tubercular
Diseases.

Three persons died of other forms of tuberculosis, the actual forms being :—
Tubercular disease of bones, tubercular peritonitis, and general tuberculosis.

This gives a total of five deaths from all forms of tuberculosis, and the tuberculosis per centage of all deaths is 8·0.

Voluntary notification of phthisis has not been adopted, and the County Medical Officer, in his report for last year, states that it “has generally, where adopted in the county, been a failure.” Leaflets with simple instructions have been supplied for distribution to consumptives, and in almost every case the room in which a consumptive dies is disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY.

The above is mostly obtained from wells. Seven samples of water from wells were examined, and three were found not fit for drinking. In these cases the wells were cleaned out, and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Much progress is being made in the way of making new connections with the public supply from the Loughborough Corporation (Blackbrook) mains, 40 being made during the year. This makes a total of 102 connections, representing about 200 houses and six factories.

SEWERAGE.

The street man-holes have been regularly cleaned out, and also the detritus chamber at the Sewage Farm, where a new sludge pump has been of great assistance.

The farm consists of about 12 acres. Of these, eight acres were utilized for sewage disposal by broad irrigation. Barley was grown on about three acres. Twenty-six new dykes have been cut, making a series of additional beds, on which it is proposed to plant more osiers, so that altogether there will now be about eight acres of osier beds. The farm is now doing much better work.

Nineteen new connections have been made (under the supervision of the Surveyor) with the sewers, viz., three in King's Road, three in Lant Street, two each in Churchside, Charnwood Road, Belton Street, and Britannia Street, and one each in Cotton Mill Valley, Leicester Road, Garendon Road, Loughborough Road, and Chapel Street. In every case the mains were clear.

Twenty-three water-closets were connected with the sewers, making a total of 46 altogether.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by contract, a method which has not of recent years been altogether satisfactory. During the first quarter of the year under review the work was done so badly, and was so greatly in arrears, that it was found necessary to discharge the contractor. Others were appointed at £160 per annum, and since then the work has been done exceedingly well. There are now 400 pails to be emptied weekly.

Household rubbish and trade refuse is removed monthly when placed in suitable receptacles.

NUISANCES.

Joint inspections (with the Sanitary Inspector) have been made, especially in the Hall Croft, Chapel, Pick, Lant, and Church Streets. These inspections have resulted in much improvement of the sanitary conditions of these places. Four cases of overcrowding were investigated, and the nuisances abated after notice.

The bake-houses, butchers' shops, slaughter-houses, and fish shops have all been inspected, and in only one case was it found necessary to issue a notice.

PLANS AND BUILDINGS.

During the year 15 plans were presented to your Council, including 22 dwelling-houses, three additions to houses, one new factory, and one addition to a factory.

There were altogether 1,244 houses occupied in July, as compared with 1,231 last year, and 1,161 at the last census (1901). There were also 51 empty houses, of which only 20 were really inhabitable. Eight houses were condemned as unfit for human habitation. Five were cleaned and repaired, and three are still unoccupied.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Hosiery and boot and shoe manufactories still remain the main industries of the District. The others are quarrying, brick, and lace making.

Factories. The factories are :—Hosiery 6, boot and shoe 4, lace 1, joiners 3, brick-works 1 : making a total of 15. These were all inspected and found quite satisfactory.

Workshops. The workshops (including bakehouses) number 52, as follows :—Hosiery 25, boot and shoe 5, needle-maker 1, printer 1, dressmakers 8, tailors 6, bakehouses 6. Only eight notices were issued to abate nuisances, mostly for lime-washing.

Homework. The out-workers' lists are due from manufacturers on February 1st and August 1st. Nine occupiers of factories send lists twice, and one once during the year. These lists included addresses of contractors and 510 workpeople. Twenty-seven addresses were received from other authorities, and ten forwarded to other authorities. Two hundred and fifty-eight visits were made to out-workers' houses and premises, including two infected houses.

There are still some manufacturers who are rather slow in sending in their lists. It is not necessary to be continually reminding them : it is a duty imposed on them by the Factory and Workshops' Acts.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS ORDERS.

The regulations under these Orders have now been in force for three years, and at last the cow-keepers, who number 52, have been registered. All cow-sheds, &c., have been inspected (in many cases more than once), and in 13 cases notices were issued, mostly for lime-washing. Forty-nine of these premises are supplied with well water, and in two cases was the water analysed and found fair. Three farmers are supplied with water from Blackbrook.

This year a decided improvement in the conditions of the cow-sheds, &c., was noticed in many cases. Still, in some cases, there is room for improvement, especially in the regular clearing away of manure and general cleanliness.

RESUME.

The birth rate is lower than last year's, and much lower than for the last ten years for the district. It is, however, about equal to the birth rate for the whole county for 1907.

The very low death rate (the lowest since 1887) is a matter of congratulation.

The infant mortality is higher than it ought to be.

The condition of the Sewage Farm is much improved.

Dairies, cowsheds, &c., have been greatly improved, though there are some defects which I should like to see remedied.

The general sanitary condition of your District is very good.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS BELL.

Shepshed, 23rd February, 1909.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.					Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				
				Number	Rate per 1000 births registered	Number	Rate.*			
1898	5000	162	32.4	16	98	66	13.2	...	...	...
1899	5000	151	30.2	19	125	67	13.4	...	...	...
1900	5000	158	31.6	34	215	96	19.2	...	..	...
1901	5293	163	30.8	24	147	73	13.8	...	...	...
1902	5293	154	29.1	19	123	64	12	...	...	...
1903	5293	160	30.2	18	112	70	13.2	1	71	13.4
1904	5400	151	27	19	125	74	13.7	4	78	14.4
1905	5500	144	26.1	25	173	92	16.7	3	95	17.2
1906	5550	138	24.8	26	188	67	12	6	73	13.1
1907	5500	145	26.3	15	103	72	13.1	3	75	13.6
Averages for years 1898-1907.	5282	152	28.8	21.5	141	74	14			
1908	5500	140	25.4	19	135.7	62	11.2	4	66	12

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5280.
 Total population of all ages at census of 1901, 5293.
 Number of inhabited houses " " 1161.
 Average number of persons per house " " 4.4.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65 and upwards.
Small-pox
Cholera
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	1	3	1	...
Erysipelas	1	3
Scarlet fever
Typhus fever
Enteric fever	1	...
Relapsing fever
Continued fever
Puerperal fever
Plague
Totals	...	10	1	3	3	3

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Small-pox ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	3	1	2	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	2	1	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
Other tuberculous diseases	3	1	1	...	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	5	...	...	...	...	4	1
Bronchitis	5	1	...	...	...	1	3
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pleurisy ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	..	...	...	..	...	...
Heart diseases	6	..	...	...	...	3	3
Accidents	5	...	...	...	...	3	2
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes	21	8	1	...	...	6	6
All causes	62	19	4	1	1	19	18

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	{ Certified ..	...	...	5	...	1	1	7	2	...	1	4	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	19
	{ Uncertified ..	...	...															
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	...															
	Chicken-pox	...	...															
	Measles	...	...															
	Scarlet Fever	...	...															
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...									1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Other Causes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5	—	1	1	7	2	—	1	4	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	19

District (or sub-division) of SHEPSHED.

Population,
Estimated to middle of 1908,
5,500.

Births in the year { legitimate ... 139
 { illegitimate ... 1

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 19
 { illegitimate „ ... 0

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages ... 62

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.					Number of		
					Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	...	...	...	...	15	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	...	...	...	...	52	8	0
Total	...	...	...	...	67	8	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.				Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
				Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	8	8	0	0
Total	...	...	...	8	8	0	0

3.—HOME WORK. Wearing Apparel, Making, &c.

Lists received from Employers	...	...	...	{ Twice in the year		18	{ Contractors	5
				{ Once in the year		1		507
Addresses of Outworkers	...	...	...	{ Received from other Councils		...	{ Contractors	1
				{ Forwarded to other Councils		..		3
Prosecutions	...	...	...	{ Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists		0	{ Failing to send lists	0
				{ Failing to send lists		...		0
Inspections of Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	258
Outwork in Infected Premises	...	...	...	{ Instances		...	{ Orders made	2
				{ Orders made		...		2

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (section 131) at the end of the year.								Number.
Hosiery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Boot and Shoe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Printer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Needlemaker	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total number of Workshops on Register								52

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—Nil.

